

I realize that this is late, but due to my recently finding out that Ibiquity will be charging a substantial amount of money to license the IBOC technology to both manufacturers and broadcasters, I feel that the FCC must take steps to make sure that the technology does not become a money tree for the IBOC patent holder. While I feel that digital radio will eventually become a reality, I feel that until this licensing issue is taken care of, it should remain an option, not a mandatory changeover. If the FCC mandates that IBOC is the standard, the patent holder would then be free to charge whatever they want for the license. The cost of the license to use the technology added to the cost of the equipment that will be required could very well put some smaller local stations under. There should not be an unfunded mandate to convert or add IBOC digital...it should be an option for at least five years.